

REMARKS

Claims 2, 9 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 8 and 11 have been amended to depend on claim 2. Claims 4 and 9 also have been amended to eliminate means language and possible application of 35 USC 112(6). Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Concerning the objection to the drawings, the Examiner's attention is directed to Figure 2 in which insulating body 28 is shown which is fastened to support plate 18 by means of two solder-in clips 29. Further, Figure 1 shows a fixing screw 34 which engages into the first type of contact which is embodied as a socket insert 20 (please see page 3 of the specification, lines 11 to 14). Thus, Applicants' drawings are believed to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

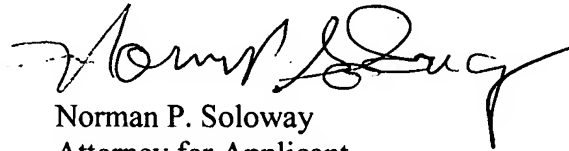
Turning to the art rejections, the Examiner rejected claims 8 and 11 as anticipated by Lai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,729,897), and claims 2 and 3 as obvious over Lai et al. in view of Shiu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,350). Accompanying this Amendment is a Verified English Translation of Applicants' underlying German Application, thereby perfecting the German priority date of August 16, 2002. Since Lai et al. has a U.S. filing date of November 6, 2002, Lai et al. is effectively removed as §§102/103 art. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims as anticipated and obvious from Lai et al. in view of Shiu et al., cannot be maintained.

The rejection of claims 8 and 11 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (US Patent No. 6,183,292) is in error. Claims 8 and 11 have been amended to depend on claim 2. Chen et al. does not anticipate claim 2. Chen et al. does not teach "two USB couplings are provided which mount to said support plate so as to face away from each other." Thus, Chen et al. does not anticipate claim 2 or claims 8 and 11 which depend thereon.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENTS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 19, 2004, at Tucson, Arizona.

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